(e) The NTPC are pursuing the recovery of their dues with the State Electricity Boards and Undertakings concerned. The matter is also being followed up with the State Governments etc. concerned who have been advised to expedite liquidation of the arrears and to open Letters of Credit for payment of the dues.

Import of L.P.G.

3317. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are importing LPG and if so, since when;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the import of LPG during the current financial year and to what extent;

(c) what is the cost of import bill for LPG during the last three years (yearwise); and ,

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) (a) The import of LPG was started in the year 1979-80.

(b) to (d) The details regarding the import of LPG during last three years is indicated below:

Qty. '000 tonnes

Value : Rs./lakhs

	Quantity	Value
1985-86 . . .	32	1090
1986-87 . . .	22	409
1987-88 (Provisional) . .	152	4501

Power consumption by agricultural sector

3318. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of energy is utilised by the agricultural sector in the country at present; and

(b) what are the proposals to enhance the share of power consumption in agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) According to the thirteenth power survey committee report, the percentage of energy utilised by the agricultural sector during 1987-88 was estimated to be 18.12 per cent.

(b) The supply of power to various categories of consumers is decided by the State authorities keeping in view the overall demand for power and its availability. The states have been advised from time to time to give priority to the supply of power to the agricultural sector.

Request of Punjab State Electricity Board for loan

3319. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation has received a request from Punjab State Electricity Board for loan for improvement of the distribution system in urban areas;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) Power Finance Corporation had received proposals from the Punjab State Electricity Board for financial assistance for improving the distribution system in Amritsar, Batala, Ludhiana and Pathankot.